Just When I Thought I Was Out, Milo Pulls Me Back In

I'd ask what the fresh hell is all this but that's an exercise in futility #milowinter #ageofscorpius Current website screenshot Someone brought this up to me, and I just wanted to address it quick...

7 min. read · View original

I'd ask what the fresh hell is all this but that's an exercise in futility

#milowinter #ageofscorpius

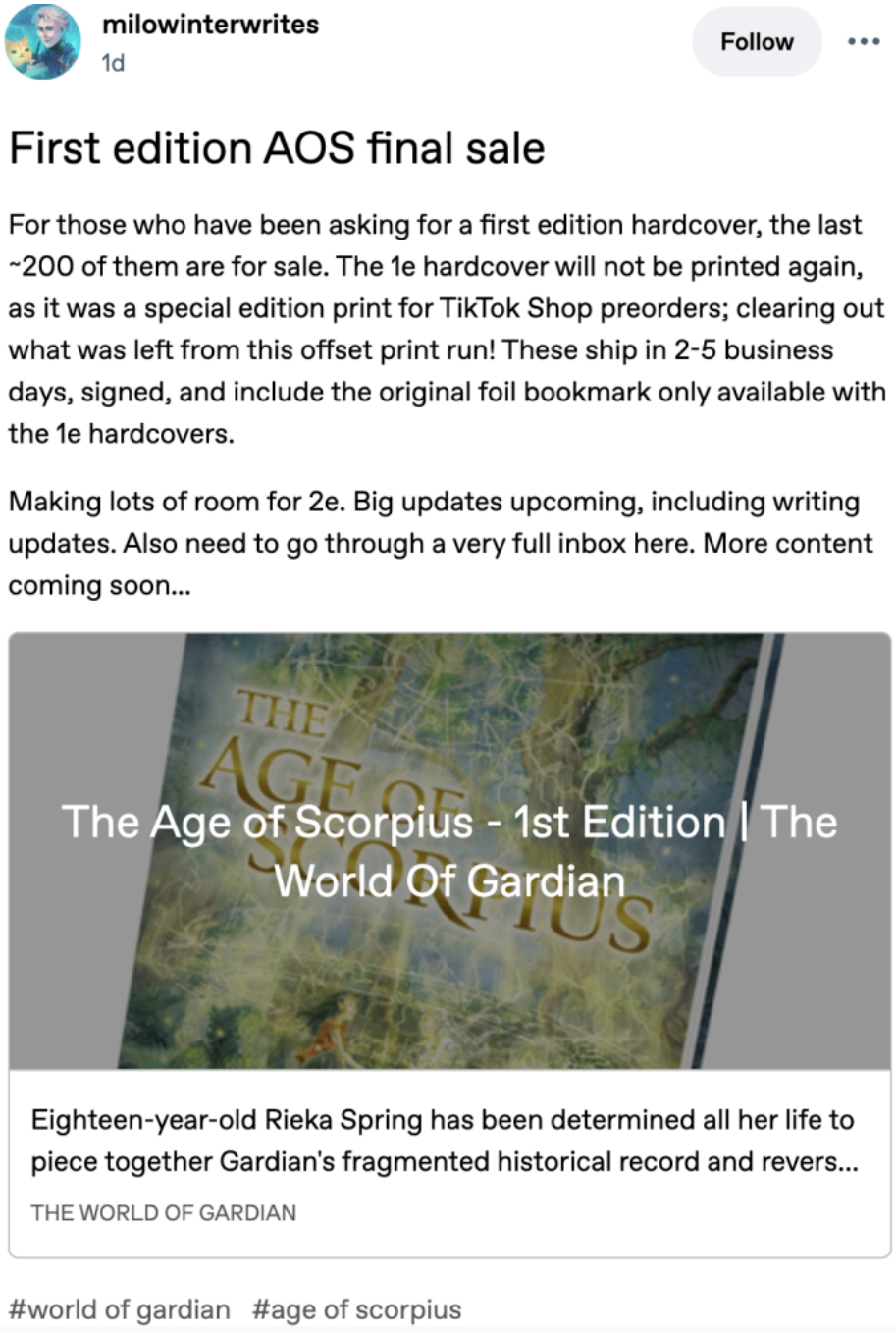
IN A WORLD WHERE ZODIAC DETERMINES FATE,
SHE DEFIES THE STARS
THE AGE OF SCORPIUS
AUDRA WINTER
THE AGE OF SCORPIUS - 1ST EDITION
SKU: BOOK-AOS-H
$27.99
Quantity *
1
ADD TO CART
1ST EDITION - BUYER BEWARE!
This is the text that was originally published in June 2025. It received many poor reviews. Upon reflection, we agree that the final product isn't what it needed to be - thus, our commitment to revising the novel with a new editor for our 2nd Edition.
But, we regularly get inquiries for people who want to own the 1st edition hardcover regardless. And there's only a couple hundred left - so if you

Current website screenshot

Someone brought this up to me, and I just wanted to address it quick like. And this essay isn't for Milo — it's for

potential buyers of his work.

Milo is selling hardbacks of the first edition of his book, The Age of Scorpius, on the official World of Gardian website. For $27.99. He claims this is the final sale of his remaining surplus stock of 200 books or so.

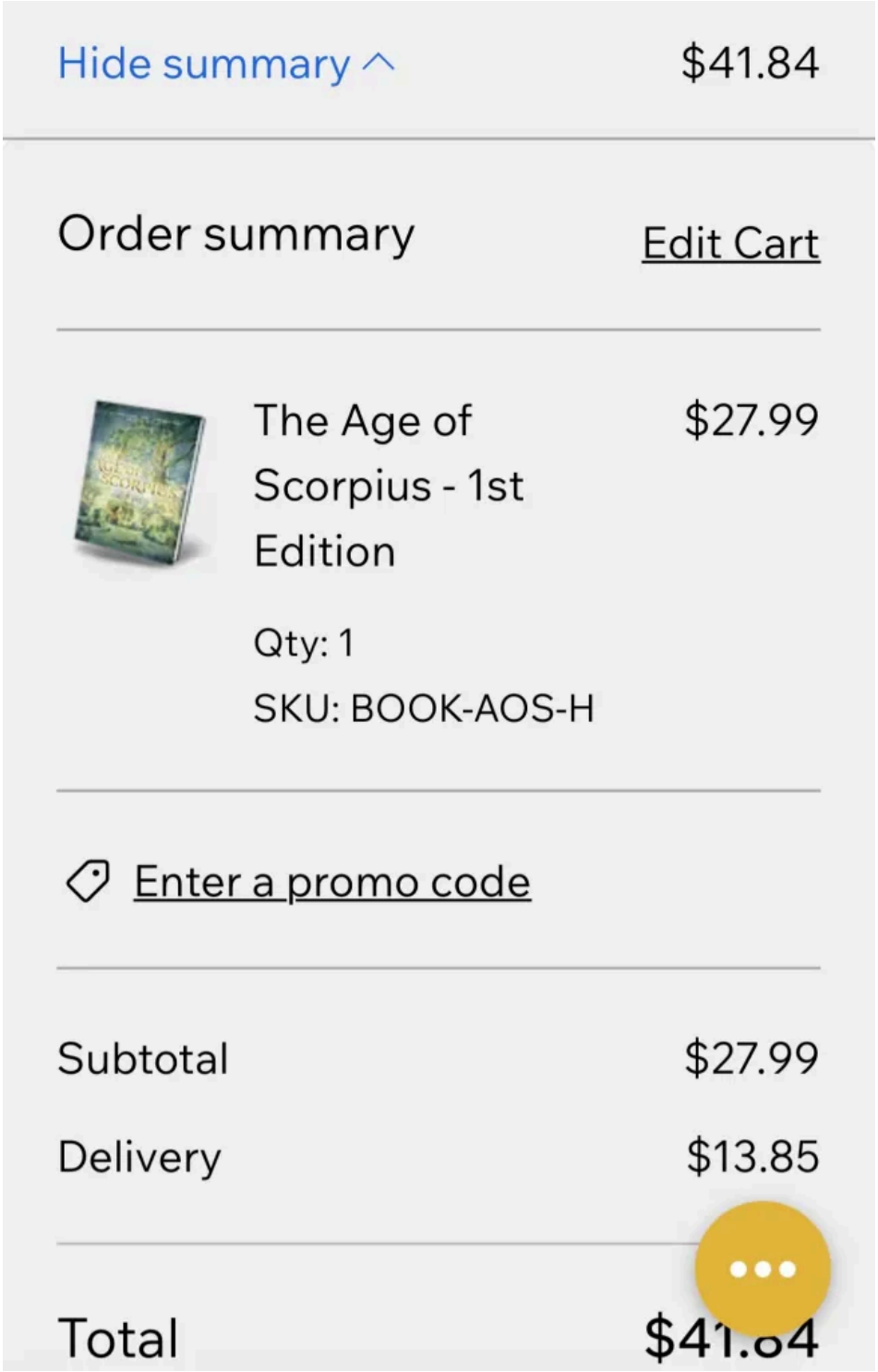

milowinterwrites
1d
Follow
First edition AOS final sale
For those who have been asking for a first edition hardcover, the last ~200 of them are for sale. The 1e hardcover will not be printed again, as it was a special edition print for TikTok Shop preorders; clearing out what was left from this offset print run! These ship in 2-5 business days, signed, and include the original foil bookmark only available with the 1e hardcovers.
Making lots of room for 2e. Big updates upcoming, including writing updates. Also need to go through a very full inbox here. More content coming soon...
The Age of Scorpius - 1st Edition | The World Of Gardian
Eighteen-year-old Rieka Spring has been determined all her life to piece together Gardian's fragmented historical record and revers...
THE WORLD OF GARDIAN
#world of gardian #age of scorpius

From Milo's Tumblr:

> First edition AOS final sale

> For those who have been asking for a first edition hardcover, the last ~200 of them are for sale. The 1e hardcover will not be printed again, as it was a special edition print for TikTok Shop preorders; clearing out what was left from this offset print run! These ship in 2-5 business days, signed, and include the original foil bookmark only available with the 1e hardcovers.

Okay, that price looks reasonable for hardbacks in this day and age as annoying as it is. So, for shits and giggles, I decided to put one in the shopping cart to see how much the shipping would be.



Sorry for the crappy mobile screenshot

On top of the $27.99 price is a shipping charge of $13.85.

…

Dude. I haven't even filled in my address yet so this is the *base* shipping cost. There's no state sales tax (if you're in

the US) or VAT added in yet. If this is in America, he's obviously not using Media Mail — the cheapest USPS option — to send them.

I'm not going to tell you how to spend your money. No amount of money you choose to spend is going to materially impact the tax apocalypse trajectory Milo is on. It doesn't matter if Milo is still in Finland and illegally generating revenue because all of the escape hatches are closed now. However, if you do decide to pull that trigger, here's some things you should consider.

- **HOW** is Milo fulfilling these orders?
- In **WHICH** jurisdiction is this surplus of 200 books in?
- **WHERE** are the books being stored at this time?
- He probably did not pack 200 books with him to take to Finland (if he went to Finland and is still there). So **WHO** is fulfilling the order? If Milo himself isn't doing the packing and shipping himself, is there a documented labor contract between World of Gardian LLC and a third party?
- **WHEN** is the shipment expected? What's the shipping timeline?
- **WHY** is the base shipping charge approximately 49.5% of the base price of the book by itself? That shipping charge becomes 33.1% of the total paid at checkout.

(**2 February 2026**: There is now an answer to WHERE the books are shipping *from*, see Update III down below.)

And — this is something almost no one ever thinks about — if one chooses to buy the book, **you are exposing your name, shipping/residential information, and your payment information**. The only way to get the book is through direct sales on his website, and that means handing over your personal information.

Your IP information is captured and logged, order numbers are generated, transaction timestamps are recorded, and

payment processors and financial institutions are all cross checked and reconciled.

None of that is normally malicious in of itself — this is just basic *boring* e-commerce that happens every day. This ordinariness is precisely why no one ever thinks twice about it.

But in *this* particular case the information you surrender to buy his book may make you a potential line item exhibit in whatever Tax-pocalypse that is looming in the wings.

If you think it's worth disclosing your information as a participant to whatever financial and government entities that may come sniffing, that's up to you. Your money, your choice.

To be perfectly honest, I actually was tempted to pick up a copy, because I am an archival raccoon. I save and archive stuff I know is going to disappear in the churn of time and culture. I still have a stack of weekly news magazines covering the Columbia explosion in 2003 and 9/11 on my shelves, because archiving and memory preservation is important. I write about history and historical figures, the

impulse to archive against entropy is instinctive, because I understand how context and meaning degrades over time.

I've paid way more in shipping than this for rare and out of print books, so that's not necessarily a hurdle for me. I've done weird shit to acquire obscure volumes.

I consider *The Age of Scorpius* worthy of cultural preservation in the same way John Waters' terrible movies are treasured by some pop culture archivists. Regardless of its literary merit, The Age of Scorpius reshaped the discourse around author identity, indie publishing, and viral fame on internet platforms. And that gives it historical, evidentiary, and interpretative value as an artifact of a zeitgeist. The discourse easily crosses a multitude of academic disciplines, including psychology, literature, economics, and law. There's enough material for future postgrads stake their PhDs on it.

Sometimes, trash and treasure are the same thing

The Age of Scorpius matters — just not in the way its creator ever intended.

But the information exposure is not worth it. In this case, the act of archiving and preservation may alter the record itself. Purchasing the book turns me into a data point in the system. The scene hasn't settled and it's still hot. It's a historian's dilemma, and I choose to not entangle myself in it while the situation is still volatile.

That's just me, though. Someone out there may feel differently. But you should know what you're getting into when you drop that book into your shopping cart and check out.

Ciao.

UPDATE I: afanficof-theageofscorpius on Tumblr has reminded me that Milo still hasn't fulfilled all the orders of his book from last year. Yeah, that very edition he's selling for $28. Instead, these buyers were sent a bookmark instead. A bookmark for nearly $30. Really, dude? Is he selling the books on his website instead of filling the orders like he should be?

What this potentially can do is cause the prioritization of new buyers versus outstanding orders and contaminates the evidentiary trail of who owes what to whom and when. It makes timeline reconstruction for auditors more difficult if new buyers inject themselves into this system. TL;DR — don't become a data point.

BTW, you should totally be reading their fanfic on AO3: Meanwhile, in a Parallel Universe by Gurianthe. Complete rewrite of *The Age of Scorpius*. 👋 ♏ 📖

UPDATE II: carydorse on Tumblr clarified the outstanding orders that Milo owes customers are the limited edition

paperbacks which would have included more art and more chapters, set for mailing in Sept/Oct 2025. The paperbacks had not yet been ordered from the printer at the time the original edition was released at the end of June. Good to know. He still owes people books that are now vaporware.

Commentary from Anatole (me): Isn't that kinda scummy though, putting in extra story into the special edition? It's like paying for a game DLC like horse armor. Not illegal, just kinda like "Microtransactions : the Novel."

UPDATE III: I spotted this post from the Novel Ideas Podcast @novelideas.bsky.social on BlueSky on 02 February 2026 which, per the time stamp, had been made nine days earlier.

Novel Ideas @novelideas.bsky.social · 9d
Ever curious, Elsa has ordered a physical edition of The Age of Scorpius to experience for herself.
Would you be interested in a series where Elsa shares her experience with Chris at some point?
((Please note that the focus would be on the book and not on the drama surrounding the author.))
THE AGE OF SCORPIUS
WELCOME TO GARDIAN.
A WORLD WHERE ONE'S ZODIAC SIGN DETERMINES THEIR MAGIC, FATE, AND SOCIAL STATUS.
EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD RIEKA SPRING HAS BEEN DETERMINED ALL HER LIFE TO PIECE TOGETHER GARDIAN'S FRAGMENTED HISTORICAL RECORD AND REVERSE HER SIGN'S EMOTION-LESS CODE OF HONOR. WHEN SHE FINALLY LOCATES AN ANCIENT ARCHIVE CONTAINING CLASSIFIED KNOWLEDGE OF GARDIAN'S HISTORY, RIEKA DISCOVERS A SCROLL THAT REVEALS THE EXISTENCE OF A MYTHOLOGICAL WEAPON AND UNCOVERS THE TRUTH BEHIND THE SCORPIO CODE—IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A MANIPULATION TACTIC TO KEEP SCORPIO IN POWER.
VIOLATING THE CODE'S "HOLY ORDERS" IS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH, AND RIEKA'S BROKEN THE FIRST TENET: NEVER SHOW EMOTION. UNLESS SHE WANTS TO BE MURDERED FOR DISPLAYING HER ANGER AGAINST THE LAW'S WILL, SHE MUST FIND AND PROVE THAT A MYTHOLOGICAL WEAPON IS MORE THAN A STORY BEFORE SHE'S KILLED BY THE STRANGELY FAMILIAR ASSASSIN SENT TO STOP HER.
1
1
1

> Elsa:
> Ever curious, Elsa has ordered a physical edition of The Age of Scorpius to experience for herself.
>
> Would you be interested in a series where Elsa shares her experience with Chris at some point?
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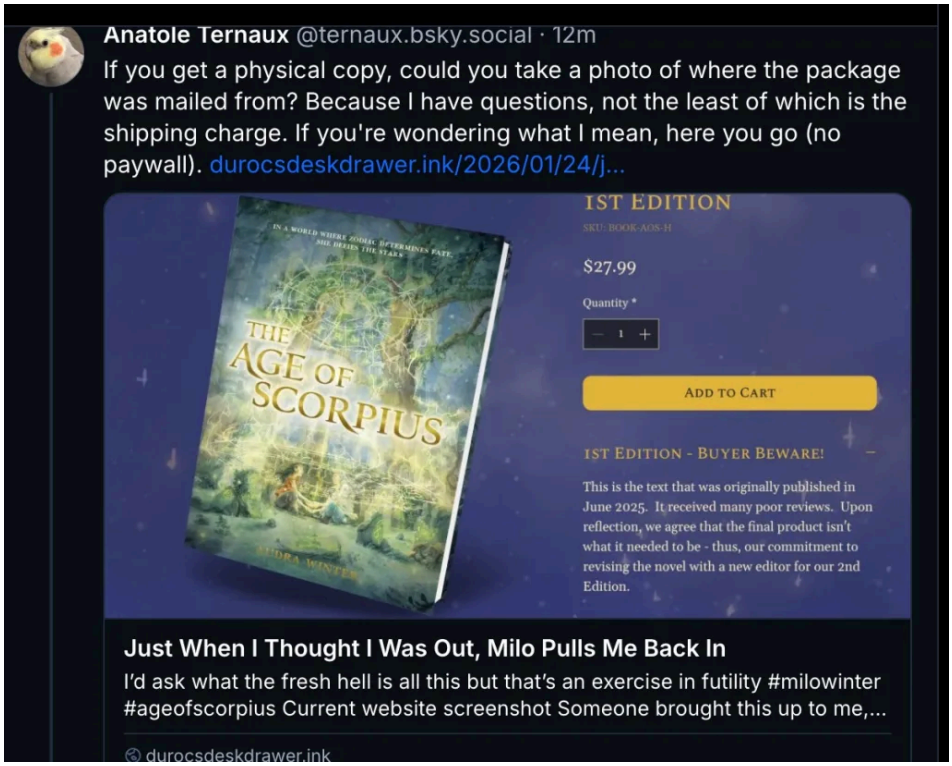
> ((Please note that the focus would be on the book and not on the drama surrounding the author.))

Since some questions about the shipping origins of the book are still unresolved, I sent a reply on that post.


Anatole Ternaux @ternaux.bsky.social · 12m
If you get a physical copy, could you take a photo of where the package was mailed from? Because I have questions, not the least of which is the shipping charge. If you're wondering what I mean, here you go (no paywall). durocsdeskdrawer.ink/2026/01/24/j...
1ST EDITION
$27.99
Quantity *
ADD TO CART
1ST EDITION - BUYER BEWARE!
This is the text that was originally published in June 2025. It received many poor reviews. Upon reflection, we agree that the final product isn't what it needed to be - thus, our commitment to revising the novel with a new editor for our 2nd Edition.
Just When I Thought I Was Out, Milo Pulls Me Back In
I'd ask what the fresh hell is all this but that's an exercise in futility #milowinter #ageofscorpius Current website screenshot Someone brought this up to me,...
durocsdeskdrawer.ink

> Anatole:
> If you get a physical copy, could you take a photo of where the package was mailed from? Because I have questions, not the least of which is the shipping charge. If you're wondering what I mean, here you go (no paywall) — [Link to this essay]

Elincia Talvi a.k.a. Elsa replied back quickly:

Elincia Talvi
@elsarochelle.bsky.social
+ Follow
I already threw out the package, but when I looked at the tracking info from USPS, my package came from Colorado. It shipped pretty instantaneously, too.
7:37 PM · Feb 2, 2026

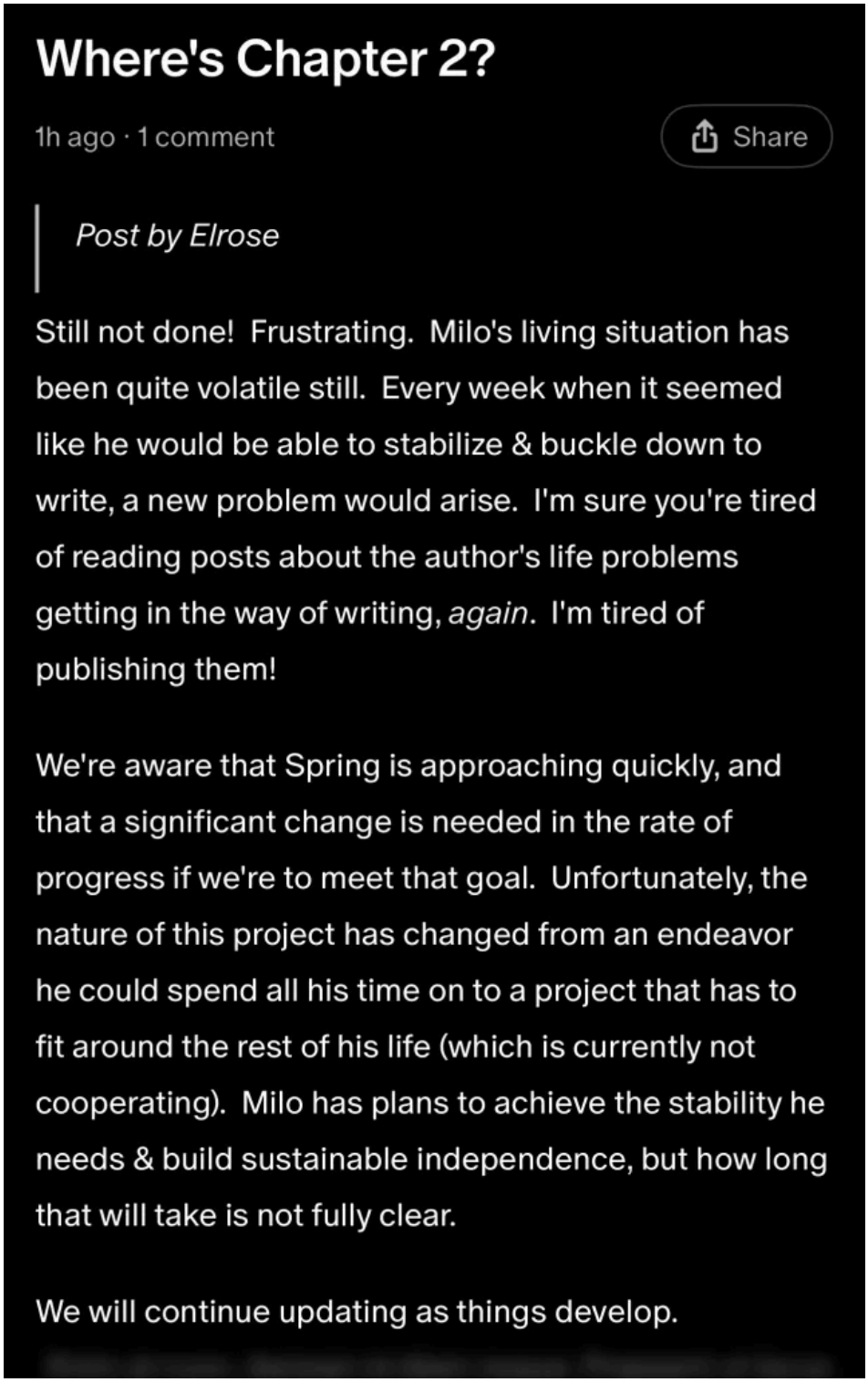
> Elsa:
> I already threw out the package, but when I looked at the tracking info from USPS, my package came from Colorado. It shipped pretty instantaneously, too.

> Elsa:
> The shipping was costly, considering that I live in Missouri.

These screenshots are reposted with Elsa's permission.

This does answer where direct-sales book purchases are being fulfilled, and I can say that from what I've seen the origin point is consistent with Milo's publicly known information. What that means, I'll leave y'all out there to interpret.

UPDATE IV: 6 February 2026, Elrose posted this to the World of Gardian Patreon.


Where's Chapter 2?
1h ago · 1 comment
Share
Post by Elrose
Still not done! Frustrating. Milo's living situation has been quite volatile still. Every week when it seemed like he would be able to stabilize & buckle down to write, a new problem would arise. I'm sure you're tired of reading posts about the author's life problems getting in the way of writing, again. I'm tired of publishing them!
We're aware that Spring is approaching quickly, and that a significant change is needed in the rate of progress if we're to meet that goal. Unfortunately, the nature of this project has changed from an endeavor he could spend all his time on to a project that has to fit around the rest of his life (which is currently not cooperating). Milo has plans to achieve the stability he needs & build sustainable independence, but how long that will take is not fully clear.
We will continue updating as things develop.

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While the rest of the post is locked to paying members only, Elrose apparently heavily implies that Milo has returned to the United States, which may explain the dispatch address in Update #3. Elrose also sounds frustrated, which is not a good sign but we'll see how this plays out, eh?

All of my previous Milo Winter/*Age of Scorpius* essays in one tag: age-of-scorpius.

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